

6. (Amended) The piston according to claim 23, wherein the cross section of the convex surface is arcuate.

7. (Twice Amended) The piston according to claim 23, wherein the convex surface is annular about the axis of the piston, wherein the inner end face includes a flat surface that joins to and is located radially inside the annular convex surface.

8. (Amended) The piston according to claim 23, wherein the end wall includes a plurality of ribs, wherein the ribs extend radially on the inner end face and are arranged at equal angular intervals.

9. (Amended) The piston according to claim 23, further comprising a head piece and a body piece that is coupled to the head piece, wherein the head piece includes the end wall, and the body piece includes the remainder of the piston, and wherein, when the head piece and the body piece are separated, the inner end face is exposed.

10. (Twice Amended) A hollow piston used in a compressor, wherein the piston is adapted to be accommodated in a cylinder bore of the compressor, the piston comprising:

an end wall that receives the pressure of the cylinder bore, the end wall having a substantially flat outer end face that is exposed to the pressure of the cylinder bore and an inner end face that is opposite to the outer end face, wherein a recess is formed in the outer end face; and

a protrusion that is formed on the inner end face to reinforce the strength of the end wall against the pressure applied to the outer end face, wherein the protrusion includes a plurality of ribs.

12. (Amended) The piston according to claim 10, wherein the contour of the inner end face, from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion, first approaches the outer end face and then departs from the outer end face.

13. (Amended) The piston according to claim 12, wherein the inner end face includes an annular concave surface, which is located about the axis of the piston, and a convex surface, wherein the convex surface is located radially inside and is joined to the annular concave surface.

17. (Amended) The piston according to claim 10, wherein the ribs extend radially.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 20-23 are allowed. Claims 4, 6-10, 12, 13, and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Claims 1-3, 5, 16 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice. A marked up version of the claims is attached in Appendix A.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indication that claims 4, 6-8, 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. See Office Action at p. 3. Claim 4 has been amended to depend on allowed independent claim 22. Claims 6-8 have been amended to depend on allowed independent claim 23. Independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate allowable dependent claim 16. Claim 17 has been amended to depend on independent claim 10 and in turn, claim 18 is dependent on claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants submit that in view of the amendments, claims 4, 6-8, 17, and 18 are now in condition for allowance.